

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF FACT

Surface Coal Mining Permit S-0605

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water Mining Section (DMLW-Mining) has reviewed the Jumbo Dome Mine Road Corridor (JDRC) revision application, submitted by Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc., PO Box 1000, Healy, AK 99743. The DMLW found the revision application to be complete, consistent with AS 27.21 and 11 AAC 90 and makes the following Preliminary Findings.

1. A request for a revision to the Surface Coal Mining Permit S-0605 was filed with the Division of Mining, Land and Water on December 8, 2015. Revision of the permit has been requested in accordance with AS 27.21.080(d) and 11 AAC 90.129(b).
2. The currently approved permit meets the requirements of AS 27.21 and 11 AAC 90, subject to the stipulations of the original permit, which can be revised to ensure that the surface coal mining and reclamation operations will comply with these requirements.
3. The proposed revision would increase the permit boundary by a total of 448 acres; 370 acres on the west side of the road corridor and 78 acres on the east side. The purpose of the boundary increase along the west side of the road is to incorporate areas that will provide a source of gravel to complete the haul road into the Jumbo Dome Mine. Disturbance within this boundary revision would include a 42-acre gravel site and a half mile long, 80-foot-wide access road. The eastern boundary increase will allow for easier inspection and monitoring of impacted areas along the permit boundary.
4. The request for a revision to the approved Surface Coal Mining Permit was found complete on August 15, 2016. DMLW makes no other findings as to its technical adequacy at this time.
5. Public Notice of Preliminary Findings of Fact will be published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner once a week for four consecutive weeks starting on August 24, 2016. Public Notice of the Preliminary Finding of Fact will also be posted on the State of Alaska Public Notice website and in the Healy, Alaska Post Office. The notice will also be circulated to all applicable federal and state agencies and mailed directly to the DMLW mailing list of 39 affected persons.
6. The application for this major revision is currently being evaluated to determine if it meets the technical requirements of the Alaska Surface Coal Mining Program (AS 27.21 and 11 AAC Chapter 90).
7. The proposed revision to the approved surface coal mining reclamation and operation plan will not affect known threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.

8. Copies of the revision request are available for review at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 920, Anchorage, AK 99501-3577, or on our website (www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/index.htm). Comments should be sent to Renee Romsland, at the address above, by fax to (907) 269-8930 or by E-mail to coalprogram@alaska.gov with the subject, "Jumbo Dome Road Corridor" The deadline for comments is 5:00 pm on October 14, 2016. A person who is or may be adversely affected by this revision may file written comments or objections to the revision and may include with the objection a request for an informal conference (AS 27.21.140).



Russell Kirkham, Manager,
DMLW, Coal Regulatory Program

8/22/11
Date